

Message Text

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TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: IAEA SAFEGUARDS PROJECT IN U.S.; WESTINGHOUSE PLUTONIUM
NDA DEVELOPMENT

REF: IAEA VIENNA A-355

1. AS NOTED REFAIRGRAM, IAEA SECTION CHIEF OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS METHODS AND TECHNIQUES, A. WALIGURA, IS PLANNING BE IN U.S. LATE NOVEMBER. WALIGURA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY D. TERREY OF HIS STAFF AND GEORGES RUBINSTEIN OF AMERICAS SECTION, DIVISION OF SAFEGUARDS OPERATIONS. (DETAILED ITINERARIES FOLLOW SEPTTEL.) AT ANL, CHICAGO, AGENCY TEAM HOPES TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF NDA TECHNIQUES FOR WESTINGHOUSE MIXED PU/U OXIDE RODS WITH ANL TECHNICAL STAFF. IN ADDITION TO IMMEDIATE NEED TO MEASURE WESTINGHOUSE RODS, DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH TECHNIQUES IS IMPORTANT TO ENABLE ACCURATE AND INDEPENDENT IAEA VERIFICATION OF QUANTITIES OF PU IN SIMILAR FUEL RODS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS JAPAN, WHERE THEY ARE ALSO BEING FABRICATED. U.S. TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP IAEA IN THIS SITUATION ARE TWO FACTORS MAKING A UNIQUE COMBINATION MEETING INTERESTS OF BOTH U.S. AND IAEA. HOWEVER, IF METHOD IS TO BE DEVELOPED IN TIME TO MEASURE WESTINGHOUSE RODS WHEN THEY BECOME ACCESSIBLE AT WESTINGHOUSE, COLUMBIA, S.C. (AS PROPOSED BY IAEA IN ATTACHMENT TO REFAIRGRAM) PERTINENT AGENCY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. INDIVIDUALS WILL NEED TO MOVE RAPIDLY.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, INTERESTED U.S. (BARTELS, ERDA; KEEPIN, LASL; BEYER, ANL; MAHY, USMISSION) AND IAEA (SALIGURA, RUBINSTEIN) PERSONNEL MET DURING RECENT IAEA SAFEGUARDS SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE APPROACHES. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES INFORMAL TECHNICAL CONSENSUS:

A) NDA STANDARD: AGENCY COULD PURSUE WITH WESTINGHOUSE, CHESWICK, POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOP NDA STANDARD MIXED OXIDE PIN, USING WESTINGHOUSE RODS AND MIXED OXIDE PELLETS. VALUE WOULD BE IN EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPING A WORKING NDA STANDARD AND IN DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGY AND ACTUAL USE OF THE STANDARD FOR VERIFICATION OF PU IN RODS AT WESTINGHOUSE, COLUMBIA.

B) ANL TECHNOLOGY: POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF ANL TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THIS MEASUREMENT PROBLEM COULD BE EXPLORED AT ANL; PARTICULARLY THE ADAPTATION OF ANL CALORIMETER TO HANDLE RODS THE LENGTH OF THOSE PRODUCED AT WESTINGHOUSE.

C) LASL TECHNOLOGY: POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF LASL DESIGNED FFTF ROD SCANNER OF CF-252 "SHUFFLER" TO THIS PROBLEM COULD BE EXPLORED, INCLUDING DETERMINING NECESSARY MODIFICATION TO EQUIPMENT.

D) WESTINGHOUSE PLANS: AN INITIAL REVIEW OF WESTINGHOUSE PLANS (IF ANY) TO MEASURE THE MATERIAL UPON ARRIVAL AT COLUMBIA OR PRIOR TO SHIPMENT FROM CHESWICK WOULD BE VALUABLE. EXTENT TO WHICH NRC MAY REQUIRE SUCH MEASUREMENTS COULD ALSO BE DETERMINED. THIS WOULD BEAR ON POSSIBLE NEED TO SHIP SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS AND/OR ROD HANDLING EQUIPMENT TO COLUMBIA.

E) IAEA EQUIPMENT: AVAILABLE IAEA EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE USED TO MAXIMUM EXTENT (I.E., PRIMARILY GAMMA SPECTROMETRY) CONSISTENT WITH IAEA NEED FOR ACCURATE, INDEPENDENT, QUANTITATIVE PU DETERMINATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PER 2 D ABOVE, WESTINGHOUSE
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MEASUREMENT PLANS AND NRC REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE DETERMINED PRIOR TO SALIGURA VISIT. AS REQUESTED REPAIRGRAM, ALSO NEED LATEST WESTINGHOUSE ESTIMATE FOR DATE RODS WILL BE SHIPPED AND OPENED AT COLUMBIA. LABOWITZ

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